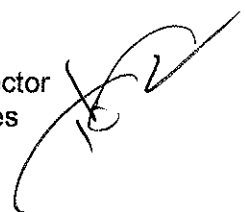


**DIVISION OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES  
PROTECTION AND SAFETY ADMINISTRATIVE MEMO #19-2012**

**To:** Protection and Safety Services Staff

**From:** Thomas D. Pristow, MSW, ACSW, Director  
Division of Children and Family Services 

**Date:** August 14, 2012

**RE:** Use of UNCOPE screening tool to identify individuals at risk for substance addiction

**Contact:** Sherri Haber at 402-471-7989 or [sherri.haber@nebraska.gov](mailto:sherri.haber@nebraska.gov).  
Suzanne Schied at 402-471-9245 or [Suzanne.schied@nebraska.gov](mailto:Suzanne.schied@nebraska.gov).

Developed in 1999 by Norman Hoffman, Ph.D., the UNCOPE is a six item screening tool used to identify individuals who are at risk of substance addiction.

The UNCOPE screening process will be completed during the initial safety and risk assessment period with all household adults in child abuse and neglect intakes that are accepted for assessment. The attached tool will be completed on paper or template and filed in the family file. In the future N-FOCUS changes will be made to incorporate UNCOPE.

The UNCOPE screening process is not part of Structured Decision Making and does not drive the safety and risk determination. It is a stand-alone process to assist in gathering additional information about the family, and about issues that may be contributing to child maltreatment or risk of maltreatment.

A score of 2 or more on the UNCOPE tool means the individual(s) should be referred for formal assessment or evaluation to determine if he/she would benefit from substance abuse treatment. For individuals in families who are determined to be low or moderate risk on the SDM risk assessment tools, Department staff will discuss with him or her the findings of the screening and **recommend** further evaluation of the individual's substance use. Department staff will provide information about available services in the community to access this evaluation.

For those individuals whose household risk level is high or very high **AND** they have a UNCOPE score of 2 or more, Department staff will discuss the findings of the screening and **request** further evaluation if:

- Substance use was a factor in the intake findings
- Substance use was a factor in any maltreatment;
- Substance use was a factor in any identified safety threat; or
- The individual scored higher than zero on the substance abuse related questions on the risk assessment tool.

Staff will provide resource information and assist the individual in locating an appropriate, affordable clinician/agency to complete the substance abuse evaluation.

Client Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Intake Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Specialist Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## UNCOPE

U -- Have you spent more time drinking or using than you intended?    Y    N

N – Have you ever neglected some of your usual responsibilities because of  
alcohol or drug use?    Y    N

C – Have you ever wanted to cut down or stop using alcohol or drugs but couldn't?  
Y    N

O -- Has your family, a friend, or anyone else ever told you they objected to your  
alcohol or drug use?    Y    N

P – Have you ever found yourself preoccupied or frequently thinking about a drink  
or getting high?    Y    N

E – Have you ever used alcohol or drugs to relieve emotional discomfort such as  
sadness, anger, or boredom?    Y    N

Total yes responses: \_\_\_\_\_

Directions: Circle the appropriate response. Two or more positive responses indicate abuse or possible dependence.  
Further evaluation is recommended or required.

Developed by Norman G. Hoffmann, PHD  
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